

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INSE-00 SCA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

AGR-05 VO-03 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /037 W

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R 082343Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7632

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJ: REPORTED INTERVIEW WITH INS OFFICERS IN SAN YSIDRO

1. SEVERAL MEXICO CITY NEWSPAPERS TODAY APRIL 30 DESPATCH
DATELINED SAN YSIDRO, CAL., AND REPORTING INTERVIEW WITH
THREE INS OFFICERS IDENTIFIED AS EARL CALLAHAN, ALLEN L.
GERHARDT, AND JAMES G. HEINECKE.

2. AS REPORTED, INTERVIEW STRESSED MAGNITUDE OF ILLEGAL
IMMIGRATION, GROWING CRIMINAL ELEMENT EXPLOITING ILLEGALS
ON BOTH SIDES OF BORDER, AND LIMITED PROSPECTS FOR PASSAGE
OF EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM. IN PARTICULAR,
HOWEVER, MEXICAN READERS' ATTENTION MUST HAVE BEEN CAUGHT BY
SUGGESTION ATTRIBUTED TO GERHARDT THAT U.S. AND MEXICAN
GOVERNMENTS "RETURN TO CONTRACTING SYSTEM OF EARLIER YEARS,
THAT IS, ONE REGULATED BY MEANS OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT, SINCE
SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD ALLOW IMMIGRANTS TO COME TO U.S.
FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY AND NOT TO REMAIN". ONE REPORTER
DESCRIBED THE GERHARDT SUGGESTION AS A "PERSONAL OPINION",
BUT THAT SUBTLETY WAS OF COURSE LOST BY HEADLINE WRITER.

3. COMMENT: AS DEPT AWARE, GOM HAS BEEN ALL BUT SILENT ON
SUBJECT OF NEW BRACERO AGREEMENT SINCE PRES. ECHEVERRIA FINALLY
BECAME CONVINCED LAST OCTOBER THAT OPPOSITION WITHIN U.S.
WAS TOO GREAT. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT INS OFFICER'S STATEMENT
IN FAVOR OF A NEW AGREEMENT HAS ATTRACTED ANY PARTICULAR NOTICE
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HERE, BUT POSSIBILITY SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED THAT GOM MIGHT

READ SUCH STATEMENTS AS A CHANGE OF SIGNALS ON OUR PART AND
CONCLUDE THAT TIME WAS NOW RIGHT FOR RENEWING ITS DEMAND.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IMMIGRATION CONTROL, CRIMES, AGREEMENTS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO03969
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750162-0744
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750570/aaaaclnd.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <11 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED INTERVIEW WITH INS OFFICERS IN SAN YSIDRO
TAGS: PFOR, MX, (CALLAHAN, EARL), (GERHARDT, ALLEN L), (HEINECKE, JAMES G)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006